HOOKER'S MILKWORT

Senega hookeri (Torrey & A. Gray) J.F.B. Pastore & J.R. Abbott

Synonyms: *Senega hookeri* (Torrey & A. Gray) J.F.B. Pastore & J.R. Abbott

Family: Polygalaceae (milkwort)

FNAI Ranks: G3/SNR

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none

Photos by Floyd Griffith

Field Description: Annual herb with a single erect stem to about 0.3 m. Leaves linear, whorled along stem. Flowers often graded from deep lavender at the tips to whitish at the bases, blooming in loose racemes with individual flowers on 2 mm stalks.

Similar Species: Drumheads (*Polygala cruciata*) form branching stems having dense racemes with more brightly colored purple flowers and grows to about 0.5 m tall. Littleleaf milkwort (*P. brevifolia*) forms branching stems with the density of purple flowers on the raceme intermediate between Drumheads and Hooker's milkwort. Littleleaf milkwort leaves are alternate and lanceolate shaped.

Related Rare Species: Tiny Milkwort (*Polygala smalli*) and Lewton's Milkwort (*Polygala lewtonii*) are endemic to Florida.

Hooker's milkwort ***Senega hookeri***

Habitat: Wet flatwoods, wet prairies, and bogs.

Best Survey Season: Flowers June-September.

Range-wide Distribution: Coastal plain from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas. Not known from Georgia.

Conservation Status: Not protected at the federal or state level. Habitat threatened. More information is needed on the status of extant populations in Florida and Alabama.

Protection and Management: To maintain high quality habitat, growing season prescribed fires should occur every 2-3 years.

References: Small 1933, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018